Infiltrators from Bangladesh in the country

1764. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated number of infiltrators from Bangladesh who are living in the country at present;

(b) what action is being taken by Government for their repatriation and by when these are likely to be repatriated;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of them have managed to get ration card also; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) It is difficult to estimate the number of infiltrators from Bangladesh as they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population because of ethnic ind lingual similarities. There are standing instructions to the State Governments including Union Territory Administrations to detect and deport such migrants back to Bangladesh. Various measures including intensificaion of patrolling by the BSF, strengthening of its water wing, accelerated programme of construction of Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF)/Mobile Task Force (MTF) Schemes, issue of identify cards to people residing in border areas, etc. have also been taken/are being taken to check the infiltration of such migrants.

(c) and (d) Ration cards are issued by the State Governments to facilitate distribution of essential supplies to eligible persons. The possibility of illegal migrants obtaining the ration cards by suppressing their antecedents cannot be ruled out. This issue among others was discussed in a conference with the Chief Ministers of the affected states (U.T. of Delhi was also represented) in September, 1992. It was generally agreed to take steps to ensure that the illegal migrants are not issued ration cards.

Aigan Infiltrators in India

1765. SHRI SUSH1LKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated number of Afghan infiltrators, immigrants and refugees in India at present and at the time of take over by the new regime in Afghanistan; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure their return to their home land during the current year so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) (i) As per information available, 25/30 Afghan nationals intruded into J&K during the last 7/8 months.

(ii) As per information available total Afghan Nationals presently registered/ staying in India are approximately 18,139 &» compared to approximately 15,680 at the time of take over by the new regime in Afghanistan.

(iii) Total number of refugees recognised by the Office of UNHCR upto February, 1993 are 17,555 and at the time of take over by the new regime in Afghanistan i.e., upto June, 1992 were 9,221.

(b) Government have taken up with the Government of Afghanistan the return of these people to Afghanistan. Substantive progress in this matter "will depend on the overall security condition in Afghanistan stabilising.

Settlement of Kashmir Issue

1766. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister Of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government took the opportunity to use the good office of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke during his visit to India to settle the Kashmir problem bilaterally between India and Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?